



City of Biggs

Agenda Item Staff Report for the Regular City Council Meeting: February 28, 2011 6:00PM

DATE: February 18, 2011
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Pete Carr, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Recreation Programs – City Sponsorship
(Discussion/Action)

City administrator requests authority to allow recreation programs on a limited and trial basis, utilizing city facilities.

Background:

The City of Biggs currently has no Recreation Department although it maintains parks, a skateboard facility, a teen center and now a community hall. We have no sports, exercise or other recreation programs, nor funding to offer such.

Municipal recreation programs are typically not self-funding, especially when the cost of instructors, property, facilities, equipment, utilities, insurance, publicity, administration, etc., are taken into account and spread across a small customer base.

The addition of Biggs Community Hall as a flexible-use fully-paid and rentable asset presents new possibilities. Staff support resources, however, are more limited than ever; this may be an opportunity for volunteers to help facilitate new programs for the community.

We may have some opportunities for limited rec programs if sufficient interest exists. The YMCA has experience and is interested in conducting trial-basis activities here. A related survey we conducted in 2010 about YMCA programs netted a mixed and unimpressive response; more follow-up is needed.

A local teacher of a popular new dance exercise program (Zumba) is interested in performing a demonstration event in Biggs at this time to see if there is sufficient interest for an ongoing program here. Her concept charges \$3 per participant to offset her costs including franchise certification. One council member has expressed interest in working with the instructor on a volunteer basis to publicize the event.

City staff is currently limited in authority to approve these trial basis programs. Staff seeks authorization and guidance that might enable trial recreation programs like the YMCA and the dance instructor to utilize city facilities to introduce new opportunities to the community.

At issue:

1. Use of city facilities – community hall vs teen center
-- standard rent, reduced rent, rent waived
2. Use of city resources (website, newsletter, etc) to publicize rec program events
3. Use of city staff for coordination and administration of rec programs

Attachments: none

Recommendation:

Advise staff, provide authority and guidance if desired.

Fiscal Impact:

Depends on level of commitment and authority granted.